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SUBJECT: FBI DIRECTOR MUELLER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
MUASHER: EXTRADITION TREATY TO GO TO NEW PARLIAMENT

Classified By: PolCouns Doug Silliman for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D)

EXTRADITION TREATY TO NEW PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL

1. (C) FBI Director Robert Mueller met June 1 with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher. The Ambassador, Mueller's Special Assistant Solomon, Executive Assistant Director D'Amuro, LEGATT, and PolCouns accompanied Mueller. Muasher's Personal Assistant Ali al-Ayed and MFA Legal Advisor Samer Naber joined on the Jordanian side. Mueller praised Jordan for its law enforcement and intelligence cooperation over many years, especially on counterterrorism. He expressed the great importance the USG places on the Jordan-U.S. bilateral extradition treaty, and hoped that the U.S. and Jordan could soon overcome the impediments to full implementation of the treaty.

2. (C) Muasher admitted that the treaty had run into problems in 1995. Jordan had brought the treaty into force without Parliamentary approval, and several members of Parliament had "made a big fuss" when the first person to be extradited to the U.S. was a high-profile suspect in the 1993 WTC bombing. Over the past two years, Muasher continued, there has not been a sitting Parliament. The GOJ plans to use the terrorism issue to justify approval of the treaty in the new Parliament which will be elected June 17. However, Muasher cautioned, "I can make no promises (regarding the chances for Parliamentary approval) until I see the composition of the new Parliament."

JORDANIAN POLICE TO TRAIN IRAQI POLICE?

3. (S) Mueller said that he believed Jordanian police officers could play a useful role in training and rebuilding Iraqi police forces. He noted that the Director of the Jordanian Public Security Directorate, Gen. Tahseen Shurdom, has excellent connections among retired Iraqi police and army officials, and had expressed to Mueller a willingness to travel to Iraq to talk to those officials about how they could help rebuild Iraq. Muasher said that he hoped Jordan could also help rebuild Iraq economically, including by assisting with administration of Iraq's airports and rebuilding Iraqi Airways.

COMMENT

4. (S) Muasher's pledge that the GOJ will submit the extradition treaty to Parliament for approval is good news. Hopefully the GOJ can justify passage of the treaty by arguing for the need for international cooperation against terrorism and crime in the wake of September 11.

5. (S) However, Parliamentary approval is not the only problem preventing full implementation of the bilateral extradition treaty. An article of the Jordanian constitution prohibits Jordanian citizens from being "deported from the territory of the Kingdom." Jordanian courts have thus far interpreted this clause to mean that extradition of Jordanian citizens under the bilateral extradition treaty is unconstitutional. Even with Parliamentary approval, the GOJ may well have an uphill battle to convince Jordanian courts to extradite to the U.S. criminals other than third-country nationals.

BERRY